

Note: This letter was begun by Harry Tiemann, who wrote the first four paragraphs. He then relinquished writing to his brother, Frank, who added the last explanatory paragraph and signed it.

Barre's Landing near Opelousas, La.
April 30, '63

Dear Father,

I have been reading over Frank's letters who has just reported again for duty having entirely recovered from the effects of his wound. Seven or eight mails have now arrived without bringing me any letters. I hardly know what to make of it as I have written home pretty regularly.

After our fight, of which I suppose by this time you must have rec'd full accounts, we came to Opelousas where we remained four or five days to rest the men. We are now engaged in collecting cotton & sugar & sending it to New Orleans together with horses, cattle & Negroes. I believe it is the intention of [General Nathaniel] Banks to clean the country entirely out. I think we will probably hold the country here to cut off supplies from Port Hudson, Vicksburg & the interior of the Confederacy. We expect to collect abt. 50,000 Bales of cotton thus making the expedition pay handsomely. It is my opinion that fighting in this department for this summer is over with. The enemy have no force in this part of the country except at Port Hudson or Galveston & the troops they have there are wanted to hold those places. I did think that we were going up to Alexandria but I do not think so now. There is a report that [Admiral David] Farragut has taken Alexandria, but I hardly believe it yet. We were all much disappointed about the Charleston affair. [Admiral Samuel F. DuPont's flotilla withdrew after attacking the South Carolina city on April 7.] It was publicly announced that the place was ours & then came the news that we had been repulsed. It threw quite a damper on our spirits. We are all awaiting anxiously to hear how [General John Gray] Foster will get out of his scrape in N.C. & to hear of some grand movement by [General Joseph] Hooker's Army. It does not seem to me that this war can possibly last a great while longer & must very shortly terminate either favorably or unfavorably.

I have been suffering severely from my "Boil." It is directly under my knee & for a time I could not get out of bed, it broke & I was in hopes of being well in a day or two but, alas, I find there is another one coming just a little ways from the old one. I have applied for a leave of absence to go to Brashear City to get a change of clothes & to sleep once more under sheets for my blankets are so full of fleas & my boil pains me so much that it is very hard work to get to sleep at night.

The place where we are stopping is merely a landing for boats of the lightest draught. There are no houses within six miles, excepting nigger shanties.

Harry's [Tiemann] boil troubles him so that he can write no more & has asked me to finish it. I arrived here yesterday morning after having been confined two days on the boat. I have entirely recovered from the effects of my wound and now enjoy excellent health. I had a very pleasant time in New Orleans. I left Edward [Leslie Molineux] in excellent spirits. I suppose he will be home before this letter reaches you. I will write more in my next.

Your affectionate son,
Frank

Love to all at home.

